

Committee of the Whole

April 25, 2016

6:00 p.m.

Council members in attendance: Barry Porter – Mayor, Pamela Kamm, Al Delgado, Jim O'Reilly, Keith Desserich, and Jenni McCauley

Staff members in attendance: Lynn Tetley – City Manager, Terry Vanderman – Community Development Director, Terry Huxel – Public Works Director, Megan Statt Blake – Assistant Community Development Director, and Emily Supinger – City Solicitor

Others present: Brad Bonham - Resident

Stearns Woods Project Update

Ms. Tetley announced that the grant for the Stearns Woods and Cilley Creek Restoration project was awarded and work will begin later this year. The project is entirely funded by grant funds, with a local match requirement that will be fulfilled by volunteer time. Ms. Eismeier provided an overview of the grant project, as the Mill Creek Watershed Council is a project partner. The concrete “dam” in Cilley Creek will be removed in order to correct erosion issues occurring. This will also improve the stream quality, as this is a tributary to the Mill Creek. This will also allow the removal of invasives in the area and replanting of native plants and trees. The project will also include plantings on the hilltop portion of Stearns Woods that was cleared of invasives in previous years. The project will include educational and outreach elements, including historic signage regarding the woods. Immediate outreach will be made to adjacent property owners and they will be able to choose plantings, from a menu of options, for those plants being installed near their properties.

2017 Master Plan Process Update

Mr. Vanderman provided an update on the Master Plan Update regarding the process to vet and select a consulting company for the update. The City earmarked \$50,000 in the CIP for this update, knowing the last update in 2007 cost over \$75,000. The price for the update is expected to come in the range of \$100,000 to \$125,000, over a two year period. The final proposal, based on scope modifications, is expected in the next few weeks. However, it is important to let City Council know where the project is expected to land in regard to cost so that a transfer or additional appropriation to fund this amount can be made in the future. The update process will kick off in the fall of 2016 and will conclude no later than August 2017. The process will include significant public involvement, a web presence, and a community survey. The cost for this project will be spread over the 2016 and 2017 Capital Budgets. Council agreed to continue moving forward per the described plan and cost.

Forfeited Land Sale Discussion

Mr. Vanderman reported on property at 220 Crescent Avenue which is available from the County Forfeited Land Sale for a price of \$1,000. The lot would require a variance to be buildable, due to the lot size, but is a viable buildable lot with such a variance. City Staff is recommending the property be purchased by the CIC and added to the inventory of available infill housing lots, which are currently being marketed by Potter Hill Homes. Council directed the CIC to purchase the property.

September/October Committee of the Whole Meeting Schedule

Ms. Tetley requested Council to settle on a date for the late September/October Committee of the Whole date, which will cover the Capital Budget and the 2017 Operating Budget. The meeting date was set for Tuesday, October 4 at 6:00 p.m.

Miscellaneous

- a. Charter Review Commission Preliminary Report – Ms. Supinger provided an updated on the progress from the Charter Review Commission thus far. A written update on possible proposals was provided in order to receive preliminary feedback from City Council on possible changes that would be referred to voters. The most significant item was regarding term length changes, possibly changing to four year, staggered terms. Council discussed the possible change to terms lengths. Other significant items for consideration include changes to executive session rules to provide for confidential meetings with legal counsel and bidding/purchasing language changes. There was also a recommendation to make the filing deadline for running for Council to be consistent with the rest of the County. Council Members were asked to consider these possible recommendations for discussion at the May work session. The final report from the Charter Review Commission will be provided at the May Committee of the Whole meeting.
- b. Oak Park – Rule 13/Basketball Court – Ms. Tetley provided an update on the application for a Rule 13 exception to allow for basic maintenance at Oak Park, due to the presence of the City's former landfill (fence repairs, path asphalt, parking lot repairs, old foot bridge abutment removal). It also came to light during this project discussion that the basketball court is on CSX property. After discussing the matter with CSX, the courts must be removed. In the near future, the fencing will be removed and the courts will be dismantled.
- c. Yard Waste Policy Discussion – Mr. Huxel provided an update on the recent City-wide yard waste collection. As previously discussed by City Council, the City and Rumpke held firm on requirements to bag, bundle, or can all yard waste or it would not be collected. This was precipitated by injuries to Rumpke workers during last year's collection as a result of improperly bundled yard waste. The process this year was 32% more efficient, which is important as the contract requires the City to pay by the hour for collection. The requirement to bundle saved over \$14,000 for this collection versus the collection in 2015. Currently, there are approximately 30 households that did not bundle and thus have not been collected. Those homeowners who have not complied will be provided a written letter of notice that failure to bundle and tag at this point, will result in a property maintenance violation and will be given a deadline of ten days to comply and the homeowner will be dealt with according to existing rules (citation to Mayor's Court, fines, etc.). All yard waste that was set out and not bundled or bagged was tagged in advance of the collection date and then retagged, if needed, on collection day in order to ensure the homeowner understood the requirement. Of 231 households tagged for non-compliance, only 30 remain (less than 1% of households). Council concurred with this approach to achieving compliance for remaining households.

Ms. Kamm asked about the Springfield Pike Open House to see how well attended it was and how the meeting was received. Mr. Huxel provided an overview of the meeting.

Executive Session – Legal Matter: Under Section 121.22 (G)(3) of the Ohio Revised Code to Discuss Pending or Imminent Litigation with the City Solicitor

A motion was made to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. by Ms. Kamm, seconded by Ms. McCauley. All ayes by roll call.

Left Executive Session at 8:22 p.m.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Ms. Eismeier to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m., seconded by Mr. O'Reilly. All ayes by roll call.

Approved:

Barry Porter, Mayor